

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 621
By McLeary

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jack Smythe of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Jack Smythe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smythe was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jack Smythe served the health needs of the residents of West Tennessee with acumen and alacrity as he founded the Jackson Blood Bank in 1947; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Smythe sold the blood bank, which became known as Lifeline Blood Services, to a nonprofit corporation, and until his retirement in 1990, he continued to serve as Executive Director of the organization, earning the respect of community members for the exemplary quality of his valuable work; and

WHEREAS, Jack Smythe is also nationally known for organizing the first professional association dedicated to the blood banking field; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smythe was an active and devout member of the Lambuth Memorial United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, ever a community leader, Jack Smythe, through his involvement with the Jackson Jaycees, was instrumental in obtaining franchises for the Miss Tennessee Pageant and the Babe Ruth Baseball League in the 1950s; and

WHEREAS, serving as the first Civil Defense Director of Jackson in 1957, he helped lead the establishment of the Madison County Fire Department and the precursor of the siren warning system that is in place in the county today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smythe also lent his remarkable talents to the Rotary Club, the Moose Lodge, the Elks Club, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Hollywood Cemetery Preservation Association, and numerous Democratic political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Jack Smythe was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smythe enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of 62 years, Martha Frances Smythe, and was the proud parent of Gary Wayne Smythe, William Kelly Smythe, Charles Jackson Smythe, and Mary Alice Dickson; and

WHEREAS, Jack Smythe leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jack Smythe, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smythe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.